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THE BOSTON SOCIETY

FOR THE

Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

From infancy to the age of seventeen, the means of education provided in this city by public munificence and private enterprise, are ample. From seventeen to the age when young men enter on the more active and responsible duties of their several stations, sufficient opportunity does not appear to be afforded for mental and moral cultivation.

At this period of life, when the mind is active and the passions urgent, and when the invitations to profitless amusements are strongest and most numerous, it is desirable that means should be provided for furnishing at a cheap rate, and in an inviting form, such useful information as will not only add to the general intelligence of the young men referred to, but at the same time will prepare them to engage more understandingly, with a deeper interest, and with better prospect of success, in the pursuits to which their lives are to be devoted.

The existing deficiency of such means is clearly a subject of regret; and the undersigned are of opinion that this deficiency may be most easily and fully supplied by courses of Lectures delivered in different parts of the city, under the auspices of a Society, whose sanction may secure to the Lecturers employed, the confidence and resort of the public.

It is proposed that the first courses of Lectures should be given to those who are engaged in Trade and Commerce; and that they should include the subjects of Universal Geography and Statistics, and of the Moral, Natural, Political and Legal Sciences, so far as they may be connected with commercial transactions.

Should the attempt to convey such instruction be as successful as similar efforts in other cities have been, it is hoped that the Lectures may be made more general in their objects and in their application.

[Boston
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CONSTITUTION.

I.

This Association shall be called the *Boston Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*. And its object shall be to promote and direct popular education by lectures and other means.

II.

1. Any adult may become a member of this Society, with all the privileges thereof, by an annual payment of two dollars, and by signing this Constitution. Minors may become members, in so far as to have the right of attending the lectures, by signing the Constitution, and paying one dollar annually.

Membership shall cease by neglect of paying the annual assessment.

2. The payment of twentyfive dollars shall constitute membership for life, and immunity from all assessments.

3. The payment of fifty dollars shall constitute a person "Patron," shall exempt him from all assessments, and give the right of two tickets, one of which shall be transferable.

4. Honorary members may be chosen by a majority of the votes of those present at any meeting of the Society.

III.

1. A meeting of the Society shall be held annually on the first Friday in April.

2. Special meetings may be called by the President, when directed by the Board of Managers, or by the written request of ten members.

IV.

1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and ten Directors; who together shall constitute the Board of Managers.

2. These officers shall be chosen by the written or printed ballots of a majority of the members present at the annual meeting; and shall hold their offices until others are chosen.

V.

1. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice Presidents, or in their absence a President pro tempore, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Managers ; which shall be conducted agreeably to Parliamentary usage.

2. The Recording Secretary shall notify all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and shall keep a record of their proceedings.

3. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, under the superintendence of the Board of Managers.

4. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all dues, and donations in money ; pay all drafts on him when signed by the Recording Secretary, and countersigned by the President or either of the Vice Presidents ; and keep a regular account of the financial concerns of the Society, an abstract of which, with satisfactory vouchers, he shall exhibit at each annual meeting, and whenever called upon by the Board of Managers. He shall give such security for the faithful discharge of his trusts, as the Board may require.

5. To the Managers shall be confided all the concerns of the Society, with authority to establish courses of Lectures, to appoint Lecturers, and fix the compensation, the time and the place ; and in general to devise and execute such measures as may best promote the objects of the Association.

6. They shall exhibit the records of their proceedings at every meeting of the Society. They shall have power to fill vacancies in their Board from members of the Society, and to make by-laws for its government.

VI.

This Constitution may be altered at any meeting of the Society, provided that public notice of an intended change is given one week previous to the meeting, and that two thirds of the members present approve the alteration.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER, *President.*

“ JOHN PICKERING, } *Vice Presidents.*
 “ NATHAN HALE, }

JACOB BIGELOW, M. D. *Cor. Secretary.*

HORATIO ROBINSON, M.D. *Rec. Sec'y.*

HENRY F. BAKER, Esq. *Treasurer.*

Directors.

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ABBOTT LAWRENCE, Esq.

CHARLES G. LORING, Esq.

WM. T. LORING, Esq.

THOMAS B. CURTIS, Esq.

CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

LECTURERS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER,

„ EDWARD EVERETT,

WALTER CHANNING, M.D.

FRANCIS LIEBER, P.D.

REV. ALONZO POTTER,

JOHN PARK, M.D.

CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

HON. WILLIAM SULLIVAN,

„ JOHN PICKERING.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Samuel T. Armstrong
 A. B. Alcott
 Amos Atkinson
 Samuel Austin
 Jonathan Amory
 William P. Andrews
 John R. Adan
 Charles Arnold
 James Andrews
 Ripley P. Adams
 George W. Armstrong
 John Ashton
 Z. B. Adams
 Abel Adams
 Horatio Alger

John Belknap
 Joseph P. Bradlee
 Joseph D. Bates
 W. H. Bordman
 W. B. Bradford, Jr.
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 J. Bellows
 Charles P. Butler
 Joseph Balch
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 George Bond
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 Joseph Baker
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 J. Collamore, Jr
 Jonathan Chapman, Jr
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 S. Doggett 3d
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 Daniel Dunlap
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 George S. Eaton
 N. H. Emmons
 J. Eveleth
 Oliver Eldridge
 James Ellison
 William J. Eaton
 William H. Ellis

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 G. W. Frothingham
 James Fessenden
 J. Fullerton
 N. L. Frothingham

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 C. W. Foster
 S. Fales
 James Fessenden
 Lincoln & Fessenden
 Augustus H. Fiske
 Ebenezer B. Foster

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 Ozias Goodwin
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 F. F. Grundy
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 Henry Gelston
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 Jabez Hatch, Jr
 Prince Hawes
 James Hayward

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Caleb Loring
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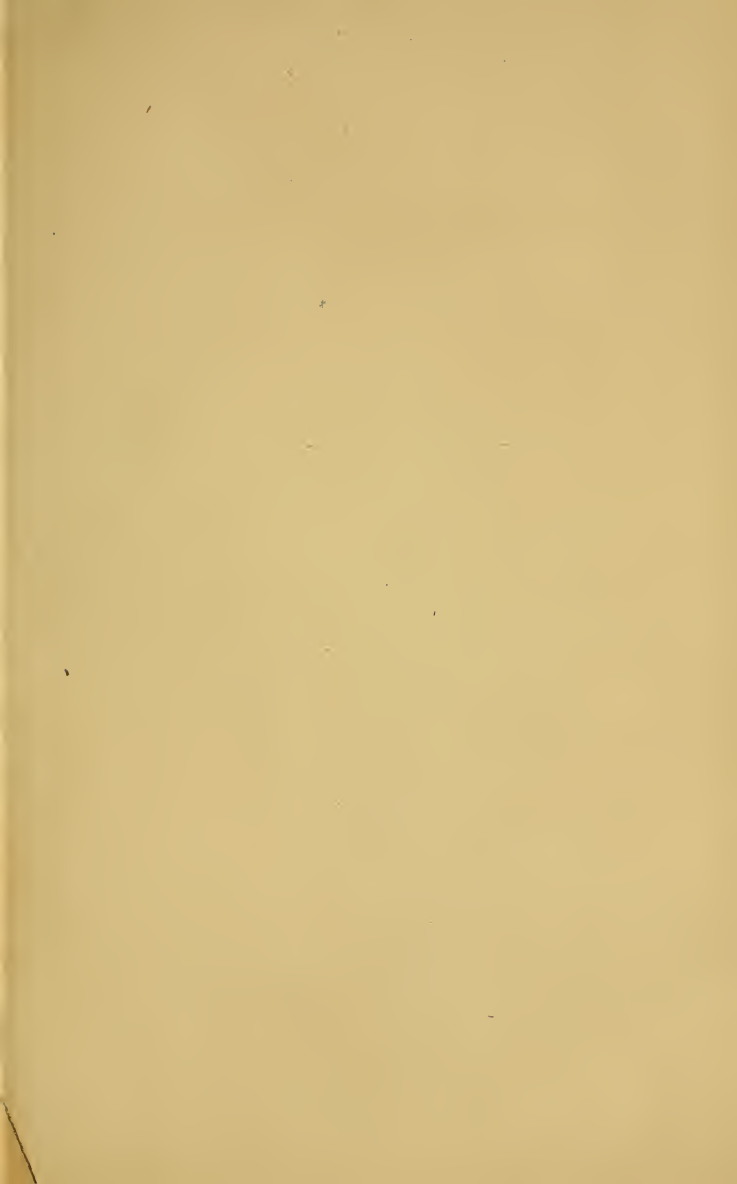
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 John Rayner
 Jacob Rhoades
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 William Sturgis
 J. Greely Stevenson
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 C. Stoddard
 W. B. Swett
 Melancthon Smith
 George Seaver
 Frank Stanton
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 George A. Sampson
 S. Stearns
 Thomas Searle
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 John H. Thorndike
 J. P. Thorndike
 J. Thorndike, Jr
 R. D. Tucker

S. C. Thwing
 George Ticknor
 G. F. Thayer
 J. Thayer
 N. F. Thayer
 C. C. C. Tucker
 William C. Tyler
 Joseph Tilden
 Henry J. Tuckerman
 Daniel Webster
 Edward Wigglesworth
 C. T. Ward
 T. Wetmore
 Thomas Wigglesworth
 Pelham Winslow
 W. W. Wheelwright
 S. Wheelwright
 W. P. Winchester
 Lot Wheelwright, Jr
 Gardner Wheelwright
 Benjamin Whitman
 Caleb S. Whitman
 John H. Whittemore
 Henry Winsor
 B. N. Watson
 Edgar T. C. Whitaker
 J. D. Williams
 Daniel Wheelwright
 W. R. P. Washburn
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